00215

1955/04/11

~~TOP SECRET~~
Personal and Private

4/11/55

SAVE - President's changes made 4/11/55

DRAFT CABLE

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Amembassy SAIGON

~~EXEX~~ EYES ONLY FOR COLLINS FROM SECRETARY

Your 4452 received and carefully studied, as well as your preceding messages. In light of your considered judgment that Diem cannot gain [redacted] adequate Vietnam support to establish an effective government, you are authorized to acquiesce in plans for his replacement. This is on the assumption that replacement can be found who in your opinion is improvement. ~~This in our opinion requires that he should~~ not be a person who is or who can ~~plausibly~~ be represented to be a tool of "French colonialism". Also, we assume it is your judgment that replacement can be effected without this involving civil war ~~which~~ you apprehend would be the case if Diem continues and seeks by force to assert his authority over the Binh Xuyen.

With regard to the operational features of the program, we feel

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By NLE Date 1/27/84

we must leave this to your judgment as it involves preponderantly local factors which we here cannot judge.

We sincerely hope that this move will be for the best and you can be confident that we will wholeheartedly do everything in our power to bring it out that way.

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